

PUBLISHED PRESS  
INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 30, 1962

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

UPI-87

(MUZZLING)

WASHINGTON--A SPECIAL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY URGED A MAJOR REVAMPING OF THE WAY TROOPS ARE INSTRUCTED ABOUT COMMUNISM AND OTHER NON-MILITARY SUBJECTS.

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT S. MCNAMARA DURING THE SENATE INVESTIGATION OF SO-CALLED "MUZZLING" IN THE MILITARY. IT SUGGESTED THAT TROOP INSTRUCTION DEAL WITH MORE ABOUT COMMUNIST AGGRESSION AND SUBVERSION THAN WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNISM.

ALTHOUGH IT SAID THERE "IS LITTLE EVIDENCE" TO SUPPORT CHARGES THAT SERVICEMEN ARE UNAWARE OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT, THE COMMITTEE ADDED THAT INSTRUCTION ABOUT COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IS "ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL."

THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE WAS FORMED LAST JANUARY AND HEADED BY KARL R. BENDETSSEN, A FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND PRESENTLY HEAD OF CHAMPION PAPER CO. OF HAMILTON, OHIO. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 13-MEMBER COMMITTEE INCLUDED ALLEN W. DULLES, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, RETIRED ADM. ARLEIGH A. BURKE, RALPH E. MCGILL, EDITOR OF THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, RETIRED AIR FORCE GEN. THOMAS D. WHITE, EDUCATORS AND BUSINESSMEN.

MCNAMARA, IN COMMENTING ON THE REPORT SAID HE AGREED GENERALLY WITH THE COMMITTEE'S FINDING AND ADDED THAT SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ALREADY HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT TROOPS BE TRAINED IN FOUR BROAD CATEGORIES--AMERICAN POLITICAL TRADITION, COMMUNISM IN ACTION, NATIONAL POLICIES AND INSTRUCTION ABOUT FOREIGN LANDS.

THE COMMITTEE SAID IT HAD FOUND SHORTCOMINGS IN THE PRESENT TROOP INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM MAINLY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM "HAS GENERALLY BEEN CONSIDERED AN END IN ITSELF."

ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, THE PRESENT PROGRAM LACKS INTEREST AND THERE "IS A LACK OF ADEQUATE QUALIFICATION" OF MANY OF THE INSTRUCTORS."

THE COMMITTEE ALSO SAID THE PRESENT PROGRAM IS BOGGED DOWN WITH CONFUSING TITLES AND THERE IS A LACK OF QUALITY IN INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

THE COMMITTEE SAID IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE SERVICEMAN "TO KNOW WHAT HE IS FOR AND WHY THAN IT IS TO KNOW WHAT HE IS AGAINST, IMPORTANT THOUGH THAT IT IS."

THE COMMITTEE SAID TROOPS SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED IN THE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS OF THE COMMUNIST POWER, APPARATUS, AND OF ITS WILL AND CAPABILITY TO EMPLOY BOTH MILITARY FORCE AND POLITICAL SUBVERSION IN PURSUIT OF THESE AIMS. OTHER AREAS OF INSTRUCTION SHOULD INCLUDE WAYS IN WHICH COMMUNISM